

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing storage services at a retailer facility that sells consumer products, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving a physical media from a consumer, wherein the physical media stores content imparted by the consumer;
generating a first identifier for identifying the consumer, and a second identifier for specifying location of the physical media within the retailer facility;
storing the physical media at the location according to the second identifier; and
charging the consumer for storage of the physical media.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the physical media includes one of a compact disc, a ZIP disk, a hard drive, a diskette, a flash memory card, and other non-volatile storage device.
3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
generating a plurality of labels corresponding to the first identifier and the second identifier;
affixing one of the labels to the physical media and another one of the labels to a container housing the physical media; and
outputting a receipt for the consumer, the receipt containing the identifiers.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the identifiers are converted to a barcode.
5. A method according to claim 3, wherein the container is sized to maximize utilization of storage space within the retailer facility.

6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
computing a fee to charge the consumer based on one of frequency of pick-up and drop-off of
the physical media and dimensions of the physical media.
7. A tracking system for supporting storage services at a retail establishment that includes
a storage facility, the system comprising:
a processor configured, in response to receiving a physical media from a consumer, to
generate a first identifier for identifying the consumer, and a second identifier for
specifying location of the physical media within the retailer facility; and
a database configured to store the generated identifiers,
wherein the storage facility stores the physical media at the location according to the second
identifier, and the consumer is charged for storage of the physical media.
8. A system according to claim 7, wherein the physical media includes one of a compact
disc, a ZIP disk, a hard drive, a diskette, a flash memory card, and other non-volatile storage
device.
9. A system according to claim 7, wherein the processor generates a plurality of labels
corresponding to the first identifier and the second identifier, one of the labels being affixed to
the physical media and another one of the labels being affixed to a container housing the physical
media, the processor further outputting a receipt for the consumer, the receipt containing the
identifiers.
10. A system according to claim 9, wherein the identifiers are converted to a barcode.
11. A system according to claim 9, wherein the container is sized to maximize utilization of
the storage facility.

12. A system according to claim 7, wherein the processor determines a fee to charge the consumer based on one of frequency of pick-up and drop-off of the physical media and dimensions of the physical media.

13. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for providing storage services at a retailer facility that sells consumer products, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a physical media from a consumer, wherein the physical media stores content imparted by the consumer;
generating a first identifier for identifying the consumer, and a second identifier for specifying location of the physical media within the retailer facility;
storing the physical media at the location according to the second identifier; and
charging the consumer for storage of the physical media.

14. A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the physical media includes one of a compact disc, a ZIP disk, a hard drive, a diskette, a flash memory card, and other non-volatile storage device.

15. A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, the computer-readable medium further including instructions for causing the one or more processors to perform the step of:
generating a plurality of labels corresponding to the first identifier and the second identifier;
affixing one of the labels to the physical media and another one of the labels to a container housing the physical media; and
outputting a receipt for the consumer, the receipt containing the identifiers.

16. A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the identifiers are converted to a barcode.

17. A computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the retailer facility includes shelving, and the container is sized to maximize utilization of storage space within the retailer facility.

18. A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, the computer-readable medium further including instructions for causing the one or more processors to perform the step of:
computing a fee to charge the consumer based on one of frequency of pick-up and drop-off of the physical media and dimensions of the physical media.